

CLAIMS

- [1] A water treatment unit that is detachably attached to an appliance that uses water, the water treatment unit comprising:
 - a cartridge-type case that has an inflow port and an outflow port that respectively connect to a water feed port and a water receive port provided on the appliance; and
 - electrodes that are housed inside the case and that exert a water treatment effect when energized.
- [2] The water treatment unit of claim 1,
 - wherein connector portions via which to energize the electrodes are provided on an exterior surface of the case.
- [3] The water treatment unit of claim 2,
 - wherein the inflow port and outflow port are arranged concentrically.
- [4] The water treatment unit of claim 3,
 - wherein the water treatment unit is coupled to the appliance by bayonet coupling means.
- [5] The water treatment unit of claim 3,
 - wherein the case has an elongate shape, with the inflow port and outflow port disposed near one end thereof and the connector portions disposed near the other end thereof.
- [6] The water treatment unit of claim 5,

wherein the electrodes extend from near the connector portions toward the outflow port, and

wherein, inside the case, a partition wall is formed that guides water that has flowed in through the inflow port toward parts of the electrodes near the connector portions.

- [7] The water treatment unit of one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein water is treated by applying a voltage between the electrodes and thereby eluting therefrom metal ions that exert an antimicrobial effect.
- [8] An appliance comprising the water treatment unit of one of claims 1 to 6.
- [9] An appliance comprising the water treatment unit of claim 7.
- [10] The appliance of claim 8,
wherein the water treatment unit is attached to an exterior surface of the appliance.
- [11] The appliance of claim 9,
wherein the water treatment unit is attached to an exterior surface of the appliance.
- [12] The appliance of claim 8,
wherein the appliance is a washing machine.
- [13] The appliance of claim 9,
wherein the appliance is a washing machine.